
Maura J. Rossman, M.D., Health Officer

November 1, 2021

Dear Community,

It has been 10 months since the Howard County Health Department (HCHD) started administering COVID-19 vaccine. Since that time, 95.1% of eligible Howard County residents have received at least one dose of vaccine and 88.5% are fully vaccinated. We have one of the highest community vaccination rates in the nation. Please continue to encourage family and friends to get vaccinated, as vaccination is the most effective strategy to save lives and end this pandemic.

We are now entering another phase of the pandemic - vaccination of younger children. The FDA last week authorized vaccine for children 5 -11 years with FDA scientists and doctors deeming the vaccine safe and effective. The next step is for the CDC ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) to meet November 2-3, to establish guidance, paving the way for this two-shot vaccine to be administered to children. HCHD expects to start child vaccine clinics on Friday November 5, 2021, assuming we receive our vaccine supply by November 4.

The vaccine will be delivered in waves across Maryland. Initially, Howard County will receive a total of 9,300 doses divided among 15 providers. There are an estimated 33,000 Howard County children in this age group. While HCHD will receive 4,200 doses and the private sector will receive 5,100 doses, the supply available will only be enough vaccine to fully immunize 4,650 children. Not every child in Howard County who wants a vaccine will be able to get it immediately. **Parents/guardians should check with their child's provider to see if they will be offering COVID vaccine.**

Beginning November 5, HCHD will operate clinics five days per week from 3 – 7pm at Howard Community College (HCC). **Pre-registration will be required for the estimated 400 appointments per day.** Information about the online registration process and upcoming clinic registration links will be posted on Thursday, November 4, 2021, after 5:00pm on howardcountymd.gov/health/covid-19-vaccine.

Many families have expressed interest in getting their child(ren) vaccinated. Again, it is expected that demand will outweigh supply in Howard County for a few weeks. Once supply patterns are established, vaccine should be more available and easily accessible. If you are unable to get an appointment the first week, please be patient. More vaccine is coming to more providers, pharmacies, and HCHD in the coming weeks. We are also working closely with Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) to plan COVID vaccine clinics on school sites once ample vaccine supply is available.



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Thank you for your support and understanding.

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Howard County Health Officer